

working for Danbury

STATE REPRESENTATIVE BOB GODFREY

Casinos

This is the hottest topic across the state. I am currently looking into many ways to prevent any further casino expansion, **especially in the Danbury area**. Some colleagues of mine feel that repealing the Las Vegas Nights statute may be the first step in this direction. I am in favor of repealing this law if it prevents any more casinos. However I am unsure if it will work since casino gambling is already established in Connecticut. Repealing this law may just hurt churches and other non-profit organizations that use it for fundraising. I'll be watching this closely!



Transportation

How many of you are sick of sitting in traffic? I, of course, commute to Hartford daily, and I'm PO'd too! That's why I voted for the Transportation Strategy Board and Danbury has already begun to see some results. The I-84 restructuring has already started and I'm still working on other projects around Danbury.

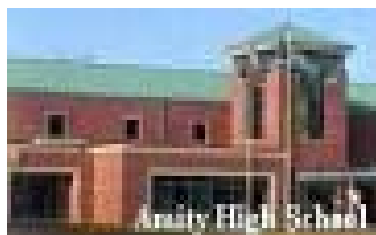
I've also asked for the national Council of State Governments to study and implement more rail service to take freight and passengers off our congested roadways.

Education

Last April I voted for a budget that increased education funds for Danbury. But the Governor vetoed it. I voted against his budget, which cut adult education aid to Danbury. I promise to fight for every state dollar available to strengthen our schools and educate our kids. I am very proud that Western Connecticut State University has gotten \$41 million in state bond funding for its new science building, money I fought for. In tough economic times, we need to invest our money in the future, and education is the best place to invest.

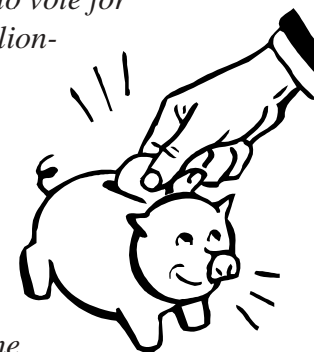
Sick Schools

One of the big disappointments last term was the failure of the Senate to vote on House legislation to make sick schools healthy. More and more sick schools are being discovered monthly, and when it's oftentimes too late to help those students and educators. Too many careers are cut short and people's lives ruined because the air in these buildings is contaminated with molds, fungi, carcinogens, and other toxic substances that are detrimental to their health. I have begun work with Joellen Lawson who heads a grass roots organization called the **Canary Committee**, consisting of teachers, students and parents, to protect future classes from these illnesses.



Protecting Your Tax Dollars

Last year, nearly 70% of you told me to vote for an increase on the income tax for millionaires. You told me that in a time of a budget crisis, with the state facing serious cuts, **you** found it fair to ask the wealthiest people in the state to cover a portion of the burden. I continue to believe you are right. I will protect services I know you all need and enjoy. I've been successful over the years in securing funding for Danbury and I will fight to keep our property taxes down through state aid.



Seniors

Last year we made great progress for our senior citizens. We expanded the ConnPACE pharmaceutical plan to thousands more residents with increased income limits. Nursing homes will be held more accountable due the Nursing Home Patient Bill of Rights we passed last year. Pharmacists must report all errors to the state and people over 55 can now designate a third-party to receive notices on their behalf. These are among my proudest accomplishments last year but I hope we can do more. We commissioned a study on long term care and that report will be coming due soon so we can implement means to take better care of our most fragile citizens. Although we have limited funds, I want to pursue ways to offer pharmaceutical assistance to even more people who face these burdensome bills everyday. I've always felt we must pay back seniors who have given so much to us. I plan to stick to that promise.

to express your opinions or concerns please contact my office at 800-842-1902



Dear Neighbor,

Over the last 14 years, I have had the privilege of serving you in Hartford at our State House. I'm thrilled that I will be working to protect your interests for another two years. I've continually been a leading advocate for bringing your tax dollars back home and I plan to fight off any service cuts the Governor may try to inflict on us.

This fall you heard me talking about seniors, health care, education, and the budget crisis in Connecticut. I assure you these are going to be among my top priorities this session. This newsletter is to address the issues I know you hold dear. My office has always been open and inclusive and I urge you to contact me. Let my know your opinions and concerns.

In the new year you will be receiving my annual survey. I would appreciate it if you would fill it out and send it back to me so I know what's important to you. Your answers have always shaped my agenda each year I've been in office.

~With best wishes for a prosperous 2003~

Sincerely,

Bob Godfrey
State Representative

Please Keep In Touch!!!

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state representative

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Neighbors
in Danbury*